

REMARKS

Claims 1-87 are pending in this application, of which Claims 24-45, 57-81 and 84-87 have been withdrawn from consideration, leaving Claims 1-23, 46-56, 82 and 83 subject to examination.

Please cancel Claims 24-45, 57-81 and 84-87, without prejudice.

Please cancel Claims 3, 15, 47 and 83, without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 10-13 and 46-51 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent Claims 1 and 46 have been amended to include structure and functionality to suggest that a computer performs the recited steps. Based on at least the foregoing amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-2, 10-13, 46 and 48-51 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-23, 46-56, 82 and 83 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52 and 82 have been amended to recite that the system or method is provided for supporting the development of inventions. As the actual invention is not in and of itself created through the use of the system, but logistical support is provided, the claim amendments reflect this distinction. Based on at least the foregoing amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-23, 46-56, 82 and 83 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that at least based on the aforementioned amendments to independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52 and 82, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 is warranted.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 46-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph,

as being incomplete. It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned amendments to Claims 1 and 46, as well as the amendments to Claim 2 and 47-55 address and correct any alleged incompleteness. It is however the position of the Applicants that many of the alleged omitted steps are in fact well known in the art. For example, the word “forum” as used in the specification is well known in the art. Also, forum security and access is also well known in the art. Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 46 and 48-56 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 46-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Atcheson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,583,763). The Examiner rejected Claims 14-23 and 82-83 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Atcheson et al. Atcheson et al. discloses a method and apparatus for recommending selections based on preferences in a multi-user system. The recommended selections are made based on prior indicated preferences of a user. A user designates preferred selections as entries in a preference list of a user. A user is presented with selections.

Regarding amended independent Claims 1, 14 and 46, each of these claims recite, in part, subscribers in the pool of co-inventors are contacted by the first computing device to inform said subscribers of the proposal for invention. Atcheson et al. only contacts a user, not a pool of subscribers as recited in the claims of the present application. Based on at least the foregoing arguments and amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 14 and 46 is respectfully requested.

Regarding amended independent Claims 52 and 82, each of these claims recite in part providing or maintaining a forum for use by a pool of co-inventors. Atcheson et al. is only used by a user, and does not provide or maintain a forum for use by the pool of co-inventors as recited in the claims of the present application. Based on at least the foregoing arguments and amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 52 and 82 is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52, and 82 are in condition for

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allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent 2, 4-13, 16-23, 48-51, 53-56 and 82, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484